

## Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8583

US ERDA GERMANTOWN MD

INFO USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 249

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH, PINR, IAEA, CA

SUBJ: NOMINATIONS FOR DIRECTOR NUCLEAR SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION

REF: AMMONS SCICOUNS TELECON JANUARY 19, 1976

1. THIS MESSAGE RESPONDS TO A TELECON REQUEST FOR EMBASSY  
EVALUATION RELATIVE MERITS TWO CANADIAN CANDIDATES BEING PUT  
FORWARD FOR DIRECTORSHIP DIVISION NUCLEAR SAFETY AND ENVIRON-  
MENTAL PROTECTION AT IAEA. EMBASSY SCICOUNS PERSONALLY KNOWS  
BOTH CANDIDATES AND HAS MADE SEVERAL DISCREET INQUIRIES WITH  
FOLLOWING RESULTS:

A. BOYD - FRED BOYD WAS ONE OF FORMER AECB PRESIDENT GEORGE  
LAURENCE'S HANDPICKED MEN WHEN HE BEGAN STAFFING UP AECB TO  
MEET REGULATORY WORKLOAD THAT BEGAN TO INCREASE SHARPLY IN  
LATE 50S AND EARLY 60S. BOYD IS LIKEABLE, PERSONABLE, AND  
HIGHLY QUALIFIED TECHNICALLY. WHEN GEORGE LAURENCE RETIRED,  
BOYD WAS SO IDENTIFIED WITH THE LAURENCE PHILOSOPHY THAT HE  
BAILED OUT OF THE CONTROL BOARD AND JOINED JOHN RUNNALS, ANOTHER  
ATOMIC ENERGY "OLD TIMER" WHOM THE FORMER DEPUTY MINISTER OF  
THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY, MINES, AND RESOURCES HAD PICKED UP FROM  
AECL AS SENIOR ADVISER ON URANIUM PROBLEMS. THUS FRED HAS  
EXCELLENT BUT RATHER NARROW QUALIFICATIONS AND HAS NEVER HAD THE  
EXPERIENCE OF EITHER RUNNING A GOOD SIZED ORGANIZATION HIMSELF  
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OR DEALING FROM A SUPERVISORY POSITION WITH ANYTHING SEVEN

APPROACHING THE COMPLEXITY OF AN IAEA DIVISION.

B. MILLAR - WHEN SCICOUNS LEFT CHALK RIVER IN 1967, CHARLIE MILLAR WAS A RELATIVELY YOUNG REACTOR PHYSICIST "ON THE WAY UP". MILLAR, TOO, HAS IMPECCABLE TECHNICAL CREDENTIALS. HENCE THERE IS VERY LITTLE TO CHOOSE FROM BETWEEN THE CANDIDATES IN TERMS OF PURE TECHNICAL ABILITY. MILLAR WAS, HOWEVER, SUBSEQUENTLY HANDPICKED BY THE NOW SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT OF AECL, ARCHIE AIKEN, TO HEAD UP THE REACTOR PHYSICS DIVISION AT CHALK RIVER. FOR THOSE UNFAMILIAR WITH AIKEN, THIS IS A QUALIFICTION NOT TO BE TAKEN LIGHTLY. WHEN IT COMES TO FILLING PERSONNEL POSITION, AIKEN IS AN EXECUTIVE WHO IS REMARKABLY PRACTICAL AND SAGACIOUS. MILLAR HAS SUPERVISED ORGANIZATIONS OF BETWEEN 100 TO 150 PEOPLE IN DIFFICULT SITUATIONS AND DONE SO SUCCESSFULLY. HE IS A HARD WORKER WITH JUST ENOUGH CYNICISM TO PROTECT HIM IN SOMETHING LIKE THE IAEA MILIEU. SEVERAL SENIOR CANADAINS WHOSE JUDGMENT SCICOUNS VALUES IN MATTERS SUCH AS THIS, FEEL THAT HE HAS THE PRESENCE TO CARRY OFF THE JOB FOR WHICH HE HAS BEEN NOMINATED WITHOUT EITHER ALLOWING HIMSELF TO BE PUSHED AROUND EXCESSIVELY BY POLITICAL FORCES OR BEING SO VERY RIGID AS TO MAKE A PROBLEM OF SOMETHING THAT DID NOT DESERVE TO BE A PROBLEM.

2. FROM INFORMATION ABOVE, EMBASSY CONCLUDES THAT WHILE BOTH CANDIDATES ARE TECHNICALLY WELL QUALIFIED AND WOULD PROBABLY DO A REASONABLY GOOD JOB, THE ODDS GIVEN THE SITUATION WOULD APPEAR TO FAVOR MILLAR.

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## Message Attributes

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